

Archaeology, History And Science Confirm The Truth Of The Bible

'In the beginning (before time was created) God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was shapeless and void of life. Darkness covered the surface of the deep. The Holy Spirit hovered over the surface of the waters' (Genesis 1:1 & 2). 'In the beginning was the Word. The Word was with God and the Word was God ... All things were created through Him. Without Him was not one thing created that has come into existence' (John 1:1 & 3). 'The title by which He is called is The Word of God' (Revelation 19:13).

God the Father with the Holy Spirit and Jesus, the Son of God Who is The Word of God, created everything that exists on earth, under the surface of the earth, in the seas, in the sky and in the entire universe. NASA estimates the observable part; just the observable part of the whole universe is 92 billion light-years in diameter. From the enormous vastness of space to the tiniest invisible cell, everything that exists was created by God. Without Him, nothing can exist. Our God is unfathomable and limitless yet He calls out, "Where are you?" (Genesis 3:9). 'What is man that You would consider him important and set Your mind on him? ... What is man that he should be (spiritually) clean? What is he who is born of a woman that he should be righteous?' (Job 7:17; 15:14). 'Before the mountains were created, before You had formed the earth and the world, from eons to eternity, You are God' (Psalm 90:2). 'God is a great God, a great King above all. In His hand are the deep places of the earth. The peaks of the mountains are His. The sea is His and He made it. His hands formed the dry land. Oh come, let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the Lord God our Maker' (Psalm 95:3 to 6).

'All scripture is by inspiration of God' (2 Timothy 3:16). The Lord told all the prophets what to write down for Him. In some cases it was recorded word for word, like an employer dictating a letter to a secretary. God said to Moses, "Write this for a memorial in a book ... Write these words" (Exodus 17:14; 34:27). "Write a copy of this Law in a book ... Write all the words of this Law" (Deuteronomy 17:18; 27:3). All through the Old Testament there are verses telling us the prophets had special men called scribes to record all details of events, genealogies and other relevant information that was included in the Bible. All the information written in the Bible came from the heart of God to give us knowledge of Himself but also to inform us regarding creation and the hope of salvation, revealing Himself through creation. God has put into every person's heart the knowledge of Himself and the knowledge, He created everything that exists, but there are people who suppress and deny that innate knowledge to their own peril. 'The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness of mankind who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what is known of God is revealed in them, for God revealed it to them. The things of God since the creation of the world are clearly seen, being observed through the created things, His everlasting power and divinity so they are without excuse. Knowing God, they did not glorify Him as God, neither gave thanks but became arrogant in their reasoning and so their senseless heart was darkened, claiming to be wise they became fools' (Romans 1:18 to 22).

Archaeology, history and science confirm the truth of creation, the reality of the children of Israel and the lives of ancient people who once lived around the Middle Eastern area. No genuine archaeological discovery has been able to contradict what is written in the Bible, even though many unbelieving archaeologists have tried to do so. Some scientists have become Christians after what they have discovered convinced them of the truth and the accuracy of the scriptures. When excavating ancient historical sites, archaeologists study pottery, seeds and animal bones found at the sites, then by dating the seeds and bones, the pottery is considered to be the same age. By doing that, archaeologists are able to combine Biblical texts with various non-Biblical texts to confirm sites and dates. It is obvious the earth was created and prepared before God created anything else. We do not know how long the Holy Spirit hovered over the shapeless earth before God formed it into a sphere with oceans, rivers and lakes and made it fit for habitation. What we do know, is out of all the planets in the whole universe, only the earth was made fit to be inhabited. 'Thus says the Lord Who created the heavens, God Who formed the earth and made it, Who established it out of chaos and did not create it a waste, Who formed it to be inhabited, "I am God and there is no other"' (Isaiah 45:18).

We should keep in mind a very important fact ... sin entered the world only about 5,770 years ago and nothing ever died before that time in history. Besides that, time itself was only put in place at creation. That is why carbon dating cannot possibly be taken seriously, especially when claims are made of fossils being dated before creation. There was nothing here to carbon date and time did not exist before creation. God was always there, but the earth did not exist until God put it there about 6,000 years ago! All carbon dating is only guesswork and is a very inexact and sometimes a foolish science that can be influenced by many factors. A scientific fact is, all snail shells and all mollusc shells can be carbon dated to hundreds of years old, even when the snails were killed moments before the tests were conducted. A true scenario was a tragic story about the complete skeleton of a teenage boy that was carbon dated to supposedly 5,000 years old. When a dentist took some tooth samples to find out the 'ancient' boy's diet, the dentist discovered a filling, which of course were not invented thousands of years ago. When a forensic photograph of his teeth was

uploaded to a computer, it was discovered he was a missing child who had been missing for only a couple of years. He had been abducted and probably murdered. So much for carbon dating! Do not believe all the results!

The universe is perfectly formed and operates by laws of nature God put into place as He was creating. The ability for all living things to reproduce itself in their various ways and all other aspects of life could only have been carefully thought through before the flora or fauna were made. Such minute details could not have happened by chance or by random. The simplest organism is incredibly complex. One single cell needs hundreds of proteins, each in its exact position, in exact sequence, just to survive. For life to exist on earth, millions of elements have to be in exact sequence. If the sun were smaller or larger, the earth would either freeze over or burn up. The same would happen if the earth were any further away or closer to the sun. The earth's 23-degree angle to the sun creates our seasons. Correct levels of gravity with the centrifugal force, the earth's magnetic field, the precise thickness of the earth's crust, the earth's axis and rotation, the exact ratio of light and darkness, the density of the ozone layer, rain and dry weather, winds soft and strong, all work together in harmony to create the perfect atmosphere for life on earth. If any of these things were out of order, life on earth could not continue.

Six is the number of mankind. Adam was created on the sixth day of creation (Genesis 1:26, 27 & 31). The history of mankind written in the Bible said Adam was formed from the dust of the ground then God breathed oxygen or air into Adam, giving him life (Genesis 2:7). The Bible also says we are made up of clay (Job 10:9; 33:6; Isaiah 64:8; 2 Corinthians 4:7). Science tells us the human body is mostly water and oxygen and when we mix dirt and water together and we get clay or mud. The 60 trace elements and minerals found in the earth are all contained in the human body and we need to ingest the elements in our food and water if we are to stay healthy. On the day Adam was created, the elements of dirt, water and oxygen were all there, proving again, the accuracy of the Bible.

Seven is the number for creation. The rainbow glows with seven refracted colours. A normal human embryo develops in forty weeks which is 7×40 . In almost all animals the gestation period is a multiple of seven weeks or days. Most bird's eggs hatch after multiples of seven days incubation, then the hatchlings fledge after approximately 12 weeks or 7×12 . There are exceptions of course but multiples of seven is the norm. Here are a few examples. The gestation period for average cats and dogs is about 63 days or 7×9 . Depending on the size of the horse, gestation periods are between 48 weeks or 7×48 for smaller horses, and 50 weeks or 7×50 for larger horses. Cows take forty weeks or 7×40 . Elephants take about 91 weeks or 7×91 . Goats are pregnant for 21 weeks or 7×21 . All multiples of seven. Turtle eggs take about 91 days or 7×13 . Domestic poultry eggs hatch in 21 days or 7×3 . Turkey and duck eggs hatch in 28 days or 7×4 . Emu eggs take 63 days to hatch or 7×9 . Robin eggs take 14 days or 7×2 . Only a Master Craftsman like our God could achieve these supernatural reproduction multiples amongst almost all of the living creatures on earth.

If evolution was correct, there would be hundreds of evolving forms alive right now. With today's modern technologies, x-rays and tests on the evolving species should be obvious but of course there are none. Darwin himself said the absence of such findings put his own theories in doubt. Spontaneous generation of life from unliving forms were proven to be impossible in 1859 by Louis Pasteur, but the ungodly continue to believe their lie of evolution. DNA has already proven, every living thing has its own DNA and there are no 'semi' creatures or evolving creatures changing from one species to another anywhere on earth. God created all living things to reproduce only after their own kind (Genesis 1:11, 12, 21, 24, 25).

For hundreds of years, ancient peoples thought the earth was flat and was held up by Hercules, but the Bible says the earth is a circle (Isaiah 40:22), the Lord hangs the earth on nothing (Job 26:7), the sun has an orbit (Psalm 19:6). About 4 BC some astronomers realised the earth is spherical then a year later Eratostenes calculated the earth's approximate circumference. Just recently, scientists have discovered ice in space and on planets and they foolishly believe they are the first to find this out but the Bible said there is water above the heavens, above and beyond our moon and stars, above the expanse (Genesis 1:7; Psalm 148:4). The numbers of stars are so abundant they cannot be counted (Jeremiah 33:22) but God knows how many there are and He has named each one (Psalm 147:4) and the composition of every star differs from another (1 Corinthians 15:41).

'God binds up the waters in His thick clouds and the cloud is not burst under the weight of the water ... God draws up the drops of water which distil in rain from the vapour, which the clouds pour down on man abundantly. Can anyone understand the spreading of the clouds and the thunderings in the canopy? ... God covers His hands with lightning and commands it to strike the mark. Its noise (thunder and the crack of lightning) tells about Him. Animals are told of His coming storm' (Job 26:8; 36:27 to 29, 32 & 33). Scientists have for centuries been trying to work out how animals know a storm is coming but the Bible answered that

puzzle already. It was during the seventeenth century when scientists discovered the cycle of hydrology; rain, evaporation, rain. The Bible says the weight or force of the wind (air pressure) can be measured (Job 28:25); the wind constantly circulates around the entire earth (Ecclesiastes 1:6); water circulates unceasingly around the earth (Ecclesiastes 1:7); the seas have currents that flow in circles and have boundaries it cannot cross (Job 38:11; Proverbs 8:29); there are channels of different types of water that run throughout the seas that help migratory birds and sea creatures navigate, plus, the foundations of the earth were laid bare for the ancient people to see and in the last century, science discovered mountains, valleys and volcanoes deep under the sea (2 Samuel 22:16; Psalm 8:8; 18:15). These verses were written thousands of years before science discovered these facts. That shows us how true and accurate the Bible is.

The Bible tells us about the creation then the fall of mankind, Noah's flood and the Tower of Babel. Archaeologists have discovered many very ancient baked clay tablets and cylindrical seals at the ancient city of Nineveh, some of which tell the story of creation, the way Eve was deceived by the snake, Adam's fall into sin, the couple being rejected from the Garden of Eden, Noah's flood and the Tower of Babel. Two such pieces have been dated as being about 5,500 years old. One small clay tablet shows a central tree with a man sitting on the left and a woman sitting on the right picking fruit off the tree, with a snake behind each person. It is believed to be the oldest 'document' and piece of art in the world. A small stone carving depicts a naked man and woman walking dejectedly with their heads down with a snake directly behind them. The Ebla coniform tablets found in Northern Syria are all dated to over a thousand years before Moses wrote the Torah, the first five books of the Bible. The citizens of Ebla kept their documents and records of events in large libraries. In those documents are the names of Abraham, Ishmael, Michael and David.

The Bible briefly mentions the Nephilim and Anakim who were giants. They were born as half-human women/half-fallen angels and lived before and after the time of Noah's flood (Genesis 6:4; Numbers 13:33). Their DNA is similar but not exactly the same as humans, although they certainly looked like ordinary men – just much larger. Archaeologists have taken photographs of skeletons as they were being unearthed and they were in excess of 3 or 4 metres tall – more than twice the height of the people who excavated their remains! Their skulls alone were the size of a modern man's whole torso. A family has been unearthed that consisted of a human mother with a half-human father and a boy of about four years old, and DNA tests revealed he was the genetic child of the couple.

In a place in the Middle East a very deep area was unearthed revealing three layers of history. There was a layer of obvious human habitation, then a layer of clay and sediment about 1½ metres deep then the deepest layer revealed people had once lived there. The layer of clay would have been deposited during Noah's flood. In another place, sea creatures like whales, sharks and fish were found buried with amphibians, crocodiles and alligators. In the pit were also large grazing animals like rhinoceros, hippopotamus, deer, horses and bulls along with hyenas, tigers and even mammoths. All these animals would have been washed down into the pit where they drowned. Noah's flood would have been the cause of the many fossils that have been found on mountain peaks. The mountains were covered by several metres of water (Genesis 7:19 & 20). Millions of animals were killed during the flood and many thousands of fossils have been found the world over. At the time of the flood, not only did it pour with rain, the windows of heaven opened dropping water from above, geysers (fountains) from deep in the ground burst open and gushed water, the crust of the earth was split causing water to rise up from under the surface, so water came from above and below to cover the earth (Genesis 7:11 & 12; 8:2). As the water subsided it had to go somewhere. Some of the water would have evaporated but much of it seeped back under the earth's crust. Scientists have recently discovered water very deep under the earth's crust, but the Bible told us that long, long ago (Exodus 20:4). A fissure has been discovered under the Atlantic Ocean stretching 45,000 kilometres long. Another similar but shorter fissure has been found near the Galapagos Islands. Scalding hot water filled with minerals continuously flow from the fissures providing a perfect environment for some unusual marine life that live in abundant numbers. The water never stops flowing into the oceans. A few massive pieces of the crust of the earth are missing from where the fissures are. A new 'crust' has been formed by incalculable amounts of mineral deposits much like a scar would cover a deep wound on our body.

Noah's Ark landed on Mount Ararat (Genesis 8:4). Huge rooms and cages were found in the three-storey structure when it was researched about 80 years ago. Some distance from the Ark are thirteen ancient stabilising and anchor stones each between two and four metres high, weighing several tonne. They are called 'Horza' stones. The anchor stones have huge holes for ropes. The stabilising stones do not have holes. Just like modern stabilisers on a modern ship, they would have been used to steady the Ark. An ancient home buried in sand is there with two stones out the front carved with a rainbow, large waves and an ark with eight people walking away from it. One stone has a figure of a woman carved into it with her eyes closed. The other stone has a man and a woman etched into it, both with their eyes closed. It is possible that may be a grave stone. Cooking and eating utensils were also once found at the site. Josephus wrote the area was regularly visited by people who desired to see the Ark. That means, before and after Jesus was on

earth, Noah's Ark was a tourist attraction. Over the years much of the wood used to build the Ark has been taken by souvenir hunters and some of the wood was burned to keep mountain climbers warm. Some of the wood can still be found but it is now petrified. Other writers between 37 AD and 1671 AD wrote about Noah's Ark being regularly visited and preserved as an admonition for us all. Currently, the Turkish Government has listed the area as a national treasure and made it the Noah's Ark National Park. That will limit the numbers of tourists, hopefully preserving the whole scene for future generations. Every ancient culture on earth has their own version of the creation story, Noah's Ark and the rainbow. Of course names and some details are changed but the basic story is the same. The Ebla stone tablets corroborate the creation story and the story of Noah's flood, written by non-Hebrews, over a thousand years before God asked Moses to write the Torah. Stone tablets known to be Babylonian, tell the story of Noah dated about 5,500 years old. After Noah's flood, sea trade began between Mesopotamia and India. In India, texts dated about 5,500 years old have been found telling the story of Noah. There are many scientific facts to confirm the story of Noah. For example, scientists during research on the sphinx discovered it had been completely submerged under strong flowing and swirling water for over a year and afterwards, was covered with layers of sand, indicating it had been built before the flood, a couple of thousand years before the first Egyptian pyramids.

'The whole earth spoke one language and one dialect. As people travelled east they found a plain in the land of Shinar and they lived there. They said one to another, "Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly." They had brick for stone and they used tar for mortar. The people said, "Come, let us build a city and a tower whose top reaches to the sky" ... God scattered them abroad from there on the surface of all the earth. They stopped building the city. Its name was called Babel because God confused the language of all the earth' (Genesis 11:1 to 4; 8 & 9). An ancient Babylonian clay tablet mentions this event. It reads, 'The building of this temple offended God. In one night He threw down what had been built and scattered the people abroad and made their speech strange. He impeded the progress of the tower.' Josephus wrote, "When all men spoke one language some of them built a tower intending to ascend to heaven but God sent storms of wind and destroyed the tower and gave everyone their own language and for this reason the city was called Babylon." The ancient Hebrew word for confusion is babel. Another historian wrote, "It was a solid tower with a second built on top, then a third up to eight towers one atop another. The eight towers can be climbed in a spiral road circling the outside and about halfway up there are seats for the climbers to rest." The ruins of the Tower of Babel are where Southern Iraq is today, between the rivers Euphrates and Tigris. It was started by the men of Shinar then abandoned when God confused their language. King Nebuchadnezzar completed the tower using the original foundations. It became the centre of the Babylonian cult that still has influence today. The tower was built of bricks made with straw, clay and bitumen mortar. It was coated with bright blue enamel. A clay tablet giving the dimensions of the tower plus the Babylonian cult temple sitting on the top of the tower was unearthed in the ruins.

There is inexhaustible proof around the world, dinosaurs really did exist. The Bible calls them Behemoth and Leviathan. When did they exist? From creation up until Noah's flood when they became extinct, as did mammoths and mega fauna. Two young animals of each breed would have been in the Ark but may not have survived the fourteen months on the Ark or died soon afterwards. Nothing ate meat until after Noah's Ark landed. The vegetation was sufficient for animals until the earth wobbled off its axis during the flood itself and the vegetable protein diminished, forcing some animals to become carnivorous. Job lived at the same time as Jacob and Esau and he knew the giant animals well. God said to him, "See now behemoth, I made along with (at the same time) as you (during creation)." Also, "Look now at his strength." Then, "Can you catch Leviathan," meaning they were on earth with Job. Reading these following verses, we can see the knowledge Job had about these animals, is the same as we know about elephants. The behemoth had a tail so big it moved it like a cedar tree. No animal currently on earth can do that. It ate grass with other grazing animals. It seems by what is written in verse 19, it was the first animal God created.

God said to Job, "See now behemoth, I made along with you. He eats grass as an ox. Look now, his strength is in his thighs. His force is in his stomach muscles. He moves his tail like a cedar. The sinews of his thighs are like cables. His bones are like brass tubes. His limbs are like iron bars. He is the first among the works of God. Only his Maker can near him with His sword. The mountains produce food for him where all the wild animals play. He lies under the thorny lotus trees hidden by the reeds and the marsh. The lotuses cover him with their shade. The willows of the stream surround him. If a river overflows, it does not frighten him. He is confident when the Jordan River swells up to his mouth. Will anyone take him on when he is on the watch or pierce through his nose with a snare?" (Job 40:15 to 24).

Leviathan was able to emit gas, probably like methane or similar, that could ignite. They are known as dragons and many cultures have a story about extinct fire breathing lizard-like creatures with huge scales and claws.

"Can you catch Leviathan with a fishhook or hold down his tongue with a cord? Can you put a ring in his nose or pierce his jaw with a hook? Will he make petitions or speak soft words to you? Will he make a covenant with you to be your slave forever? Will you play with him as with a bird? Will you tie him up to

amuse your little girls? Will traders barter for him? Will they part him among the merchants? Can you fill his skin with barbed iron darts or his head with fish spears? If you lay your hand on him you will remember the battle and will never do it again. The hope of capturing him is in vain. One would fall down in fear at the sight of him. No one is fierce enough they dare stir him from sleep. Who then is he who can stand before God? ... I will not keep silence concerning his limbs, his mighty strength nor his strong skeleton. Who can strip off his garment of scales? Who will come between his jaws? Who can prise apart the scales of his face close to his terrible teeth? Rows of strong scales are his pride, closed up together with a close seal. One scale is so near to another, no air can come between them. They are interlocked so they cannot be prised apart. His sneezing flashes with light. His eyes are like the shimmering of dawn. From his mouth go burning torches and sparks of fire leap out. Steam comes out of his nostrils like a boiling pot over a fire. His breath kindles coals. Flames pour from his mouth. There is strength in his neck and terror goes before him. The layers of his skin are joined together. They are firm on him and unmoveable. His heart is as hard as a stone, yes as hard as a millstone. When he rears himself up, mighty men are afraid and retreat before his thrashing. If one attacks him with the sword, it cannot pierce him nor the spear, the dart, nor a pointed lance. He regards iron as straw and brass as rotten wood. An arrow cannot make him flee. Sling stones are like chaff to him. Clubs are counted as hay. He laughs at the rushing of the javelin. The skin on his belly is like sharp pottery. He leaves a trail in the mud like a threshing sledge. He makes deep water look like the boiling of a pot. He makes a wake shine after him to make the deep look like white hair. On earth there is nothing his equal. A creature made without fear" (Job 41:1 to 33).

One example of deeply hidden information in the Bible is when the earth divided. Scientists have known for some time the earth was once one landmass that broke up and divided itself into several continents and islands. We do not know exactly how the earth divided or how long the process took for the land to settle into its present position, but the scriptures give us an idea of when it took place. The Bible tells us in the middle of a seemingly uninspiring list of names. 'To Eber was born two sons. One was named Peleg (to divide), because in the days of Peleg the earth was divided up' (Genesis 10:25). To confirm that statement, the Lord had it written again. 'To Eber was born two sons. One was named Peleg (to divide) because it was during his lifetime the earth was divided up' (1 Chronicles 1:19). If we study the scriptural genealogies closely, we can see Peleg was born 1,758 years after creation. He died aged 239, 1,997 years after creation, which was about 3,777 years ago. By studying these verses, we can calculate approximately when the earth (along with people and animals) was divided up; somewhere between 4,016 and 3,777 years ago.

The ancient cities of Shinar, Ellasar, Elim, Goyim, Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim and Zoar, 'All these joined together in the valley of Siddim, the Salt (Dead) Sea' (Genesis 14:3). 'The sun had risen when Lot came to Zoar. God rained on Sodom and on Gomorrah sulphur and fire from God out of the sky. He overthrew all those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities and everything that grew on the ground ... Lot went up out of Zoar and lived in the mountain, his two daughters with him for he was afraid to live in Zoar. He lived in a cave with his two daughters' (Genesis 19:23 to 25 & 30). 'The whole land is burning sulphur and salt so it is not sown, nor any grass grows there like the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboiim, God overthrew in His anger and in His wrath' (Deuteronomy 29:23). Excavations in Sodom, now called Bab-edh-drha, and Gomorrah, now called Numeria found both cities were inhabited during the time of Abraham. There were numerous homes, a large temple and several mass graves containing thousands of skeletons. Each house in Sodom, Gomorrah and the surrounding the cities had internal fires causing the rooves to collapse and the cities were covered by tons of ash. Over time, the ash became charcoal. From the cities, hundreds of large balls of sulphur/brimstone have been found. The balls consist of a very concentrated sulphur much purer than naturally occurring sulphur. For the sulphur to be purified as it is, it must have burned at about 5,000 degrees Celsius. The cities have never been rebuilt. The Ebla tablets mention Abraham, Isaac, Sodom and Gomorrah.

Tombs of the major Hebrew family of Abraham are still intact and can be visited. Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob and Leah were all buried in double caves in Hebron. The cave was called the Cave of Machpelah which means 'Double'. 'Abraham buried Sarah in the cave of the field of Machpelah before Hebron in the land of Canaan' ... 'Abraham died an old man. His sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah' ... 'Jacob came to Isaac in Hebron. Isaac gave up the spirit and died. His sons Esau and Jacob buried him' ... 'I (Jacob) am going to die. Bury me with my fathers in the cave in the field of Machpelah, which is before Hebron in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought as a burial place. There they buried Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah and Leah' ... 'Jacob's sons carried him into the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah' (Genesis 23:19; 25:8 & 9; 35:27 to 29; 49:29 to 31; 50:13). Machpelah, the Tomb of the Patriarchs, is a holy Jewish site. Rachel's tomb is near Bethlehem. 'Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (Bethlehem). Jacob set up a pillar on her grave. The same is the Pillar of Rachel's grave to this day' (Genesis 35:19 & 20). Rachel's tomb is still intact. Joseph's tomb is in Shechem (near Nablus) where Abraham built the first altar (Genesis 12:6 & 7). 'The children of Israel brought Joseph's bones out of Egypt and buried the bones of Joseph in Shechem' (Joshua 24:32).

The tomb was almost destroyed during a Jewish/Palestinian conflict in 2000 and was partly repaired in 2010. While Joseph was in Egypt he was known as Zaphenath-Paneah (Genesis 41:45) and Imhotep. Coins from that period have been found with Joseph's names written in Egyptian hieroglyphs.

There are Egyptian hieroglyphics etched onto walls in Goshen, telling of the Hebrews living there, then being forced to be slaves then their sudden departure (Genesis 46:28; Exodus 9:26; 12:33 to 39). A tomb in Egypt is filled with hurriedly buried remains of boys and men of all ages, confirming the deaths of the firstborn during the last plague before the Israelites fled slavery (Exodus 12:29 & 30). Inscribed in ancient Hebrew characters on a rock wall near Petra and Mount Sinai, there is a story about the mass exodus of the Hebrews from Egypt with Moses (in Hebrew, Moshe) as their leader. There were many other signs of human habitation plus Hebrew writing on rocks as eye witness accounts of the events surrounding the Exodus; plagues, pillars of cloud and fire, the first Passover and the parting of the Red Sea. Moshe means to be pulled out, lifted out, rescued from or drawn out of water. 'The child grew and Jochebed (Moses mother, Exodus 6:20) brought him to Pharaoh's daughter (Hatshepsut) and he became her son. She named him Moses and said, "Because I drew him up out of the water" (Exodus 2:10). Moses' Egyptian name was Senmut. A statue of Senmut/Moses as a very handsome young man with a fair complexion is in the Cairo museum. The Bible describes Moses as being exceedingly handsome (Acts 7:20).

'Moses stretched out his hand over the (Red) sea and God caused the sea to go back all night by a strong east wind. The waters were divided and made the sea dry land. The children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground. The waters were walls to them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea. Pharaoh's horses, his chariots and his horsemen ... God said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so the waters will cover the Egyptians, their chariots and their horsemen." Moses stretched out his hand over the sea and the sea returned to its strength and the Egyptians fled from it. God overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea' (Exodus 14:21 to 23, 26 & 27). On the bottom of the Red Sea, bones of both humans and horses, and ancient Egyptian chariot wheels have been found. The wheels have been dated to the time of Moses. During the wilderness travels of the children of Israel, they all died enroute except for Joshua and Caleb (Numbers 26:65). Scattered all along their route are dozens of Jewish gravesites. Some are mass graves with Hebrew inscriptions telling of various events and how the people died. There are several etchings on rocks of quails flying, standing or being cooked. Some Israelites died of food poisoning after eating quail meat (Numbers 11:32 & 33). Some died after being bitten by poisonous snakes (Numbers 21:6). Some died as a result of the Lord's plagues of sickness and diseases (Numbers 16:49; 25:9). One Hebrew person wrote, "The people given over to destruction cry aloud. God pours down on them deep sleep and the angel of death on the wanderer. The grave is the end of life to the sick, smitten with disease by God." God said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a flag so everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, will live." Moses made a serpent of brass and set it on the flag and if a serpent had bitten anyone, when they looked to the serpent of brass, they lived' (Numbers 21:8 & 9). After that supernatural event, the effigy of a snake wrapped around a pole became the symbol of pharmaceuticals and modern medicine.

God said, "Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb. You will strike the rock and water will come out of it so the people may drink." Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. He named place Massah and Meribah ... Then Amalek came and fought with Israel in Rephidim' (Exodus 17:6 & 8). On Mount Rephidim on a dry hill where there are no springs, a massive rock about 20 metres high is split down the middle where it had been eroded with water. The Bible said God literally opened the rock then water gushed out of the rock in a dry place. 'God opened the rock and waters gushed out and ran as a river in the dry places' (Psalm 105:41). Strengthened after having a drink, the Israelites fought with the Amalek and won. 'Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword. God said to Moses, "Write this for a memorial in a book and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua – I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under the sky." Moses built an altar and named it 'YHWHNisi' meaning, the Lord our Banner' (Exodus 17:13 to 15). That altar is still there but the Amalek no longer exist.

Other verses in the Bible tell us about the places the Israelites travelled to – places that are still there. 'They came to Elim where there are twelve springs of water and seventy palm trees. They encamped there by the waters' (Exodus 15:27). Those springs are still there. 'In the morning the dew lay around the camp. When the dew had melted, on the ground was a small round thing, small as the frost on the ground. When the children of Israel saw it they asked one another, "What is it?" They did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread which God has given you to eat" (Exodus 16:13 to 15). 'The house of Israel called it Manna. It was like white coriander seed and it tasted like wafers with honey' (Exodus 16:31). 'The manna was like white coriander seed and its appearance was like bdellium (onyx). The people went about and gathered it and ground it in mills or beat it in mortars, boiled it in pots and made cakes of it. It tasted like fresh olive oil' (Numbers 11:7 & 8). Near the altar called YHWHNisi, there are pieces of millstones the Israelites would have used to grind the manna.

'All of your warriors will march around the city (of Jericho) once. You will do this for six days. Seven priests will bear seven shofars (ram's horn trumpets of war) before the Ark. On the seventh day you will march around the city seven times and the priests will blow the trumpets. When they make a long blast with the shofar and when you hear the sound, all the people will shout with a great shout and the wall of the city will fall down flat ... The seven priests bearing the seven shofars before the Ark of God went on continually and blew the trumpets. The armed men went before them. The rear guard came after the Ark of God. The trumpets sounded as they went. The second day they marched around the city once and returned into the camp. They did this for six days. On the seventh day they rose early at the dawning of the day and marched around the city in the same way seven times. At the seventh time when the priests blew the trumpets, Joshua said to the people, "Shout, for the Lord has given you the city! ... The people shouted and the priests blew the trumpets. When the Israelites heard the sound of the trumpet, they shouted with a great shout and the wall fell down flat so the warriors went up into the city, every man straight ahead and they took the city ... They burnt the city with fire and all that was in it' (Joshua 6:3 to 5, 13 to 16, 20 & 24). Archaeologists have unearthed Jericho and found the walls did indeed fall outwards making it easy for the warriors to go straight in over the walls and take the city. Jericho was like a fortress surrounded by a high wall and at night the gates were firmly locked tightly against invaders (Joshua 2:5; 6:1). The wall was wide enough to have small dwellings built into it, just as the Bible says. Rahab lived in a house on the wall (Joshua 2:15). An area of wall on the north side is still standing and is compatible with the Biblical description of Rahab's house. It was a short distance from where the spies would have hidden in the mountains for three days (Joshua 2:16). Jericho had been completely destroyed by fire.

'Joshua spoke to the Lord on the day when God delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel and he said in the sight of Israel, "Sun, in Gibeon, be still. Moon, stop in the valley of Aijalon!" The sun and the moon stayed until the nation had avenged themselves of their enemies ... The sun stayed in the midst of the sky and did not go down about a whole day' (Joshua 10:12 & 13). 'The sun and moon stood still in the heavens' (Habakkuk 3:11). When God does something supernatural like keeping the sun shining for 24 hours, there can be no scientific explanation. The Canaanites, Phoenicians, Egyptians and Chinese, all in the Northern Hemisphere have recorded this event. In the Southern Hemisphere, Inca's, Aztecs and other South American tribes recorded a frightening darkness that lasted 24 hours. Some tribes became so frightened of the thick darkness they repented and prayed until the sun rose again.

The Hittite tribe were descendents of Heth who was a great-grandson of Noah; Noah – Ham – Canaan – Heth. The Hittites were mentioned in the Bible nearly fifty times and had regular contact with Bible characters. They were driven out of the land of Canaan by hornets so the children of Israel could move into their area. 'I (God) will send the hornets before you which will drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite and the Hittite from before you' (Exodus 23:28). The Hittites moved their kingdom north to Hattushash, also called Boghaz Keui, which became their capital. The area is now Western Turkey. Thousands of ancient clay tablets, rock inscriptions, Hittite temples and Hittite ruins have been discovered between Turkey and Egypt. The battles between the Egyptians and the Hittites recorded in the Bible thousands of years ago were also mentioned on the Rosette stone found in Egypt. A Hittite king sent a clay tablet to Pharaoh Rameses the Second in Egypt to form a treaty between the two countries. A copy of the treaty is etched onto a wall of a temple in Luxor, a city on the Nile River. Another clay tablet was inscribed with a letter from another Hittite king congratulating Pharaoh Akhenaten on his accession to the Egyptian throne. Joshua and the Israelites went to war with the neighbouring tribes and won, destroying them and the Hittite tribe and wiping them off the earth (Joshua 11:20).

Many people believe Jerusalem was a dusty little backwater, sparsely inhabited and just a small town but archaeology has proven that to be incorrect. Dating back to the time of Pharaoh Akhenaten, Jerusalem was even then a thriving capital city, and according to the Bible and archaeology, has always had a remnant of Hebrew speaking Jewish people living there (2 Kings 24:14; 25:22; Jeremiah 52:16). Jerusalem has had numerous rulers and has varied in population size at different times, but archaeology has revealed it has always been a large city. Over three hundred letters and documents have been found in Tell elAmarna, Egypt written by Canaanite kings to Egyptian Pharaohs. Some were requests for help to overthrow the Hebrews who had conquered the Canaanite land. Canaan and Syria were at that time ruled by Egypt and the diplomats in those two countries wanted Egypt to oust the Hebrews after they had taken over Jerusalem, then called Urusalem. One ancient letter said the City of Jerusalem covered a vast amount of land from Bethel in the north to Hebron in the south, from Ajalon to the Jordan River. Even back then it was the capital of Canaan, which later changed to Israel. Archaeology has dug down to different levels of human occupation at Jerusalem dating back about 5,500 years. The houses uncovered in the deepest excavations revealed Canaanite houses. The book of Nehemiah reveals it took many people just to rebuilt Jerusalem's walls and gates, without including the inner city buildings. That indicates a vast city in area, not a small town. King David said, "Whoever climbs up the water shaft and defeats the Jebusites will be made chief captain" (2

Samuel 5:8). That water shaft is still there. Many houses and other buildings have been unearthed around Jerusalem revealing vast numbers of people once lived there. Excavations also reveal Jerusalem has been destroyed and rebuilt many times. Clay tablets found buried deep underground mentions names of people whose names are in the Bible.

King David's 3,000 year old palace has recently been uncovered and the building gives us clues that confirm the size of David's kingdom. The Bible says David conquered the surrounding enemies and built the kingdom, while it was David's son Solomon who built the first temple. The temple brought unity of the Jewish people at that time. The Bible gives a detailed description of the temple including the floor plan, the porch area, the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies (1 Kings chapters 6 & 7). Three six-chamber gateways with massive entryways fortified with towers and guardrooms have been found in Gezer, Hazor and Megiddo. These building plans revealed in archaeology are all based on passages of scripture. Gezer in Judah; Hazor and Megiddo in Israel under David and Solomon suggesting one kingdom (1 Kings 9:15 to 28). The Mesha Stele mentions ancient Israel, the sacking of the temple and the house of David. A black basalt/stone stele called the Tel Dan Stele discovered in Galilee and dated to about 900 BC, mentions the defeat of the King of Israel, the House of David, his charioteers, horsemen, foot soldiers, Ahab's sons Jehoram and Ahaziah who later ruled over Israel and Judah.

In Egypt there is a wall that tells a story about Pharaoh Shishak who attacked Israel and Judah during the 22nd Egyptian dynasty. Shishak invaded Israel and stole the temple goods. The Bible records that event five years after Solomon's death during the reign of Rehoboam (1 Kings 14:25 & 26). It was recorded in Egyptian history in 930 BC confirming a firm date for death of Solomon as 925 BC. Gezer shows evidence of a fire during the raid of Shishak. The fire was so hot it melted the limestone which flowed like liquid. The three gates and archaeology written in the Tenach (Old Testament) by Jews and Egyptian writings show David and Solomon's kingdom was vast. Soon after Solomon's death, the ten northern Israelite tribes rebelled and formed Israel. The southern tribes of Benjamin and Judah were both called Judah.

'The children of Israel did evil in the sight of God so God strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel. He gathered to himself the children of Ammon and Amalek. They went and struck Israel taking and possessing the City of Palm Trees (Jericho). The children of Israel served Eglon the king of Moab for eighteen years but when the children of Israel cried to the Lord He raised up a saviour for them, Ehud the son of Gera the Benjaminite, a left-handed man. The children of Israel sent tribute by him to Eglon the king of Moab' (Judges 3:12 to 15). The Moabite stone, also known as the Mesha Stele was discovered in 1868 in what is now Jordan. It records in stone the attacks of Moab, Ammon and Amalek on the children of Israel. On the Stele is the earliest non-Biblical written acknowledgement of the land called Israel. What is written on the Stele corroborates what is written in the Bible.

'In Jehoiakim's days, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against Israel. Jehoiakim became the king's servant for three years then Jehoiakim rebelled against the king. God sent against Jehoiakim, armies of Chaldeans, armies of Syrians, armies of Moabites, armies of Ammonites and sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the Word of God which He spoke by His servants the prophets' (2 Kings 24:1 & 2). Lachish letters found in southern Israel north of Bathsheba in 1932 to 1938 record Nebuchadnezzar's attack on Jerusalem in 586 BC.

Although the Israelites all adhered to the Shabbat and Feasts, not all Israelites worshipped God. Many ancient houses have been found with figurines depicting idol worship by those who lived in Israel. Some figurines show a woman holding a small baby like the Babylonian cult, the local goddess of fertility Ishtar/Ashtoreth/Artemis (1 Kings 11:5 & 33; 2 Kings 23:13). It was that idol worship that angered God and led to the Israelites being sent captive to neighbouring nations like Persia and Assyria. The Bible records the Israelites worshipping other idols and gods like Tammuz, the Queen of Heaven and even the sun (Jeremiah 7:18; 44:17 to 25; Ezekiel 8:14 to 16). The Covenant the Lord established with the children of Israel, with their 100% agreement, was for His people to be separated from other nations and to worship only the Lord God (Exodus 34:14). God said if the Israelites obeyed and worshipped only Him He would bless them. If they disobeyed He would curse them and use foreign powers as His instrument to punish them (Deuteronomy 11:26 to 28). A new enemy arose from Mesopotamia – the Assyrians. There are many Assyrian texts depicting the raid on Israel in 722 BC when the Assyrian army crushed Israel. Most Israelites were murdered or sold as slaves (2 Kings 17:3 to 12).

'All of Judah stood before God with their little ones, their wives and their children, then in the midst of the assembly the Spirit of the Lord came down on Jahaziel, son of Zechariah, son of Benaiah, son of Jeiel, son of Mattaniah the Levite of the sons of Asaph' (2 Chronicles 20:13 & 14). A ceramic bowl recently unearthed in Israel has etched onto its side in ancient Hebrew, the name of Zechariah the son of Benaiah and the father of Jahaziel. They lived during the 8th and 7th century BC, placing the bowl in the period between King

Hezekiah's reign and the reign of King Zedekiah. The inscription on the bowl was etched before it was fired. In spite of Josiah's reforms (2 Kings 23:19 & 20), the Israelites continued to worship false gods and idols. Their acceptance of God and the only one true God only began with a series of events recorded in the Bible, archaeology and in ancient writings and texts. It started with the destruction of Solomon's temple and the exile of the Jewish people to Babylon. In 586 BC the Assyrians were defeated by Babylon then they invaded Israel. The Babylonians ransacked and systematically destroyed the temple. The Babylonians killed the sons of King Zedekiah, blinded him then bound him in chains and dragged him off to Babylon (2 Kings 25:7). The destruction of Jerusalem was one of the most devastating crises in the history of the Jewish people. The Babylonians rounded up the youths, priests, scribes and prophets and took them all to Babylon in chains. Daniel was among them (Daniel 1:6). Babylonian texts confirm the presence of the Israelites and their blinded king living in exile.

'By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down. Yes we wept when we remembered Zion. On the willows in the midst of Babylon we hung our harps, for there those who led us captive asked us for songs. Those who tormented us demanded songs of joy, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!" How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange or foreign land? If I forget you Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its skill with the harp. Let my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth if I do not remember you, if I do not prefer Jerusalem above my chief joy. Remember Lord, against the children of Edom who said on the day of the fall of Jerusalem, "Demolish it! Destroy it even to the ground!" Daughter of Babylon, doomed to destruction, he (the Israelite captive) will be happy who requites you as you have enslaved us. Happy will he (the Israelite captive) be, who takes and dashes your (Babylon's) babies against the rock' (Psalm 137:1 to 9). This Psalm ends with a definite air of bitterness. Among the many exiles were temple priests who saved the sacred scrolls from the destruction of Jerusalem. It was in Babylon where the Tenach (Old Testament) was collated into what we have today. The Jews wondered how God could allow His house to be destroyed. Without a king, land or temple, the Jews wondered how the Jewish traditions, feasts and celebrations could continue. The Israelites wanted to know why God forsook them. They remained loyal to God but struggled to understand how it all happened. After a time, they realised they had incurred the wrath of God by polytheism so the Israelites abandoned the practice and became fully monotheistic. In exile, the Israelites maintained their covenant with God and their faith grew strong. The Israelites knew they had to remain apart from the Babylonians. Daniel was a strong example of that. Other Psalms were also written in Babylon.

The exiles always believed they would one day return to Israel. A phrase they have been quoting for hundreds of years is, "Next year in Jerusalem." Abraham went to Egypt and returned. The Israelites went to Egypt and returned. The Babylonian exiles believed they would also return. As their forced exile drew them closer to God they observed the Shabbat and the other feasts. They learned to pray in groups – later forming the synagogue. The Israelites realised even without a king, land and temple, they could be loyal to God and obey His commandments. That became the foundation of Judaism. They now believed solely in the creator God of the universe and of the whole earth. By copying and writing the sacred scriptures out so it could be shared amongst them, the Lord was able to reach their hearts so they came to that revelation. It took the exile for them to realise why they had been torn from Jerusalem. From the time of the exile onwards, there has been no idol worship among the Jewish people (Zechariah 13:2). In 539 the Babylonian Empire was toppled by the Persians and the book of Esther was written. The Lord orchestrated an exodus from Babylon. We read in the Book of Daniel, one of the young men who accompanied him was named Azariah (Daniel 1:6). Ezra was the grandson of Azariah (Ezra 7:1). The covenant between the Lord and the Israelites was re-established by Ezra and Nehemiah the Governor (Nehemiah 8:1 to 18). The Dead Sea Scrolls found in 1947 contain all of the Old Testament except the Book of Esther. The earliest of the Dead Sea Scrolls was dated after the Babylonian exile.

The ancient people used to write on cylinders made of silver, wood, papyrus or stone. Prophecies about King Cyrus saying he was anointed by God and who was called by name by God Himself, were written circa 680 to 700 BC, about 150 years before he was born (Isaiah 44:28; 45:1 to 3). The Cyrus Cylinders described the attack on Babylon by King Cyrus. At that time, Israel was in captivity in Babylon. Cyrus the Persian king attacked Babylon in 539 BC. Cyrus could not initially overcome Babylon because they had a massive food supply. The Euphrates River ran through the city giving them a constant water supply. The walls of Babylon were so thick, they could carry chariots side by side – like a two lane highway. To attack the city, Cyrus used an amazing engineering feat for his time, by diverting the Euphrates River into dams. The genius Cyrus marched his troops down through the dry riverbed and came straight up into the city, attacked and overthrew it. The Bible says he let the captives of Israel go so they could return to Jerusalem to rebuild their temple, and that is all predicted and recorded in the Bible long before it happened. The ancient secular writers, not knowing about the ancient Hebrew writers, corroborate the Bible with their records of history.

Herod the Tetrarch reigned from 37 to 4 BC. He wanted Jesus killed when He was a young child (Matthew 2:1 to 16). Only after Herod died were Joseph, Mary and Jesus able to return to Israel from Egypt (Matthew

2:19 & 20). Herod's son Archelaus (Matthew 2:22), also named Herod the Tetrarch ruled from 4 BC to about 35 AD (Acts 12:21 to 23). Herod the Second married Herodias, his brother Philip's wife while she and Philip were still married for which John the Baptist rebuked him (Matthew 14:3 & 4; Luke 3:19 & 20). For his efforts, John was imprisoned then beheaded (Matthew 14:10). Herod the Second found Jesus to be innocent (Luke 23:15). Both Herods had vast buildings erected for themselves. After lying in state in his vast throne room in his lavish winter palace in Jericho, Herod the First was buried at Herodium after a long procession from Jericho to his fortress and palace at Herodium. He was buried in a mausoleum constructed especially for him. His tomb was unearthed in 2007. Archaeological finds include three sarcophagi from the Herod family's tomb, one was for Herod the First and the other two were possibly for his son Herod the Second and one for Herod's foster brother Manaen who became a Christian (Acts 13:1). The sarcophagi were made of reddish limestone decorated with rosettes and palmettos. Also found were frescoes from Herodium; the Herod family's private bath at their palace at Cyprus; an imperial marble basin given to Herod as a gift from Augustus or Agrippa; portraits of Augustus, Livia and Agrippa; luxury items brought from Rome; mosaic glassware; a fortress palace with a leisure complex including gardens, large swimming pools, lavishly decorated bathhouses, theatre and many other buildings that impacted on the Land of Israel.

'The angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vintage (of sin) of the earth and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath (judgement) of God. The winepress was trodden outside of the City (of Jerusalem) and blood came out from the winepress up to the bridles of the horses, as far as one thousand six hundred stadia' (or 252 kilometres, Revelation 14:19 & 20). During the Crusades circa 1,000 to 1,200 AD the Knights Templar and another Christian military group under the orders of King John of England, began their own campaign to help the sick, injured and needy. They called their organisation in Latin, 'The Order of Saint John of the Hospitallers in Jerusalem'. This was the beginning of St John's hospitals and ambulance service we still have today, and it is where the word hospital originated. A fully functioning hospital was built in the heart of Jerusalem. The Hospitallers took the Hippocratic oath to, 'Care for and watch over pilgrims'. Sometimes the Hospitallers joined with the fighters as an elite group of medical men, similar to army doctors going to the front lines today. The Hospitallers treated all who needed help; Crusaders, non-fighting men plus women, children and sometimes even the enemy. Like hospitals today, the ancient hospital in Jerusalem had various 'wings' according to the type of illnesses, injuries or the condition of the patients. There was an 'Emergency Area' that could take as many as 2,000 patients in one day. One 'wing' was used as an orphanage for children who were raised with great kindness and as adults served in the military. After the Crusades ended, the evil ruler Saladin moved in near the hospital. He allowed just ten monks to continue to live in the hospital to serve the population of Jerusalem. During the despotic rule of Saladin, thousands of Jews and Christians were murdered with the sword. After heavy rain, water with blood from the victims ran down Jerusalem's streets as deep as the horses bridle as was prophesied in the Bible 2,000 years ago. An historian of the time wrote down the events in detail when he returned to England. The ancient hospital is located in the Christian Quarter of Jerusalem. Historical documents prove the building and others like it were indeed hospitals. During an earthquake in 1457 AD the hospital collapsed and was buried under rubble. Parts of the hospital that remained standing were used as horse and camel stables.

Outside an old cemetery in the old part of Jerusalem, archaeologists discovered two small silver scrolls etched with Hebrew characters and on them was a prayer still said in synagogues today. 'The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His face toward you and give you peace' (Numbers 6:24 to 26).

The Bible is truly the only Book of Truth. Amen and God bless you all. www.bibleabookoftruth.com